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Attorney Docket No.: 71084

**JUN 07 2006**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : ABELS et al.  
Serial No. : 10/632,017  
Confirm. No. : 9343  
Filed : July 31, 2003  
For : BALL-AND-SOCKET JOINT  
Art Unit : 3679  
Examiner : Ernesto Garcia  
Dated : June 7, 2006

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PETITION UNDER 37 CFR 1.136 (a)**

Sir:

The Office Action dated December 7, 2005 provided for a shortened statutory period for response of three months.

The shortened statutory period expired March 7, 2006.

Since the attached response is being filed within the third month pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) Applicant attaches a Credit Card Payment Form and respectfully requests the Examiner to charge the appropriate petition fee of \$1,020.00 (fee code 1253).

Respectfully submitted  
for Applicant(s),



By:

John James McGlew  
Reg. No.: 31,903

For: MCGLEW AND TUTTLE, P.C.

JJM:tf

Enclosed: Credit Card Payment Form  
71084-12

DATED: June 7, 2006  
SCARBOROUGH STATION  
SCARBOROUGH, NEW YORK 10510-9227  
(914) 941-5600

SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO  
OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.